

REMARKS

Fig. 4 has been labeled "PRIOR ART" as requested by the Examiner.

Applicant comments on the Statement for Reasons for Allowance as follows.

Although the Examiner states at page 2 of the Office Action that "wherein the support member starts the clamping 'before' the press-fit starts", Applicant notes that claim 1 recites that both press-fit and the clamping are started by applying an axial load, and there is no requirement as to whether the press-fit or the clamping is first started. Also, claim 1 allows for both of the press-fit and clamping to start at the same time.

Early favorable action is respectfully requested.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 13, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement drawing for Fig. 4 is submitted herewith. Fig. 4 is corrected so as to be designated "PRIOR ART".

Attachment: Annotated Marked-Up Drawing: Figs. 4
Replacement Sheets: Figs. 1-4, including corrected Fig. 4

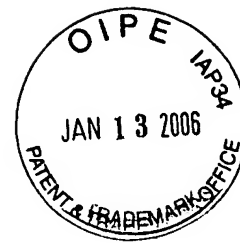


FIG. 4
PRIOR ART

